MARVEL

3

DONNY CATES · RYAN STEGMAN · JP MAYER · FRANK MARTIN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

FOR YEARS, THE SYMBIOTES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAVE BEEN LEAVING MICROSCOPIC PIECES OF GENETIC MATERIAL--CALLED "CODICES"--IN THE BODIES OF THEIR HOSTS, AND CLETUS KASADY, BONDED WITH A GODLY SYMBIOTE KNOWN AS THE GRENDEL, HAS RETURNED TO CLAIM THEM.

AFTER ATTEMPTING TO FIND A TEST SUBJECT FOR THE CODEX EXTRACTION MACHINE BUILT BY THE MAKER, EDDIE BROCK AND SPIDER-MAN FOUND THEMSELVES STARING DOWN CLETUS KASADY AND NORMAN OSBORN, NOW IN FULL SYMBIOTIC MADNESS.

BARELY ESCAPING WITH THEIR LIVES, EDDIE AND SPIDER-MAN DECIDED TO SPLIT UP AND FIND OTHER PREVIOUS SYMBIOTE HOSTS TO BRING THEM TO THE SAFE HOUSE FOR CODEX EXTRACTION.

IN THE MIDST OF A WAVE OF CARNAGE DOPPELGANGERS, EDDIE FOUND MILES MORALES, A.K.A. SPIDER-MAN, AND MAC GARGAN, ONETIME VENOM HOST AND CURRENT SCORPION. GARGAN CAME FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE CARNAGE-INFECTED OSBORN, WHO QUICKLY DUG A SYMBIOTIC TENDRIL INTO GARGAN'S SPINE TO REMOVE HIS CODEX.

EDDIE, KNOWING THEY'RE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE, PICKED UP THE NOW-PARALYZED SCORPION, BUT EDDIE COULDN'T SAVE MILES IN TIME...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

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I LOST THE KID.

CARNAGE TURNED HIM.

TOOK HIM.

DRAGGED HIM DROWNING INTO THE BLACK AND RED.

THE CARNAGE HORDES GROW STRONGER BY THE DAY.

HE'S COLLECTED DOZENS OF CODICES SO FAR.

RIPPED PIECES OF THE SYMBIOTE FROM THE LIVING AND THE DEAD... AND WE'RE...

...LOSING.

I'M LOSING *EVERYTHING.*

AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WIN.

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO LOSE...

I'M SORRY, KID...

...THEY'RE DAMN SURE GONNA KNOW THEY'VE BEEN IN A FIGHT.

I KNOW THIS AIN'T YOUR FAULT...

...BUT WE'VE.

HAD.

ENOUGH!

KRYNCH

KILL HIM, EDDIE!

NOW!

TOSS

NO!

WE HAVE TO END THIS! WE CANNOT LET HIM--

NO! THE KID ISN'T IN CONTROL. JUST CALM DOWN AND--

EDDIE!!!

HELP ME, MAN!
YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS. WE NEED TO GET TO SCORPION AND--
EDDIE!
HAHA! AWWWW...
...IS DADDY SCARED?!
WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, NORMAN!
WE ARE TRYING TO HELP YOU! TRYING TO FIX YOUR GRANDSON, NORMIE! WE CAN HELP YOU TOO!
YES. YES, THAT'S GOOD.
WHAT...
NOW, EDDIE! KILL HIM NOW!
...WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT NORMIE?
HEY! NO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HE IS WEAK! *VULNERABLE!* WE WILL KILL--
NO, DAMMIT! LISTEN TO ME! YOU DO AS I SAY! YOU LISTEN TO--
NO.

NOT ANYMORE.

SMASH

UGK...

UGK...

KRUNCH

YOU... YOU JUST... STABBED HIM IN THE HEART...

SOMEONE HAD TO, EDDIE.

EDDIE, PLEASE!

NO!

PLEASE! HELP! HELP!

DEAR GOD, HELP ME!!!

HARRY'S
WINE
LOTTO

COME ON, WE HAVE TO HELP--

NO.

WHAT?

WE HAVE TO FINISH THIS.

WE HAVE TO KILL HIM AND TAKE HIS CODEX BEFORE MY SPAWN CAN REPAIR HIM.

GO DO IT, THEN.

I'M GOING TO HELP MAC. I'M GOING TO GO SAVE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN.

YOUR CALL.

RAGHH!

FINE.

BUT DO NOT BE MAD AT ME...

...WHEN WE LOSE.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?!

SINCE WHEN DO YOU KILL WITHOUT ME?

TOSS

CANNOT ALLOW IT ANYMORE, EDDIE.

CANNOT LET OUR CHILD CONTINUE TO KILL IN OUR NAME.

YEAH, WELL...I HAVE A KID TOO.

WHICH MEANS I CAN'T EXACTLY RUN OFF HALF-COCKED ANYMORE...

COME ON, MAC! LET'S GO!

THWAK

AGH!

I UNDERSTAND, EDDIE. YOU MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR SPAWN AS I DO...

BUT UNDERSTAND THIS...

...IF YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO END THIS...

...I WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO IS.

REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE. VENOM HQ.

I NEED A HOSPITAL, MAN. WHERE ARE WE?

I TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL AND YOU GO TO PRISON...

I'M SERIOUS, MAN! I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!

SHUT UP.

I GOT A GUY IN HERE THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE...

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"...@#$%."

HEY...

WHAT IS...HEY, LOOK...

THEY KNOW IT WASN'T YOU ON RYKER'S.

NO ONE IS HERE TO HURT YOU. I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.

THAT'S RIGHT, BROCK. YOU CAN RELAX.

THE CAVALRY IS HERE.

THIS MAN NEEDS IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION. CARNAGE BROKE HIS SPINE WHEN WE--

I'LL HANDLE IT.

IS THE MAKER STILL--

LITTLE REED? *NAH.* SEEMS THE LITTLE @#$% RAN AWAY BEFORE I COULD GIVE HIM A PROPER YANCY STREET HELLO.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY...

I DISDAIN THE USE OF A ***CHILD*** AS A TEST SUBJECT, BUT HIS SCIENCE IS SOUND. THIS MACHINE WORKS. NORMIE OSBORN IS COMPLETELY FREE OF THE SYMBIOTE CODEX.

HE'LL BE OUT FOR ANOTHER FEW HOURS. AS WILL ALL OF YOU, ONCE YOU GO IN.

WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR THAT.

HEY, THANKS. NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M EDDIE.

BRUCE BANNER. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET A FEW TIMES. WE BOTH LOOKED A BIT...DIFFERENT THOUGH.

OH MAN... DID I...DID ***WE*** INFECT YOU?

SURPRISINGLY, NO. THE HULK HAS NEVER WORN THE SYMB--

SORRY, GIVE ME A SECOND, YEAH?

HEY, BUDDY.

YOU OKAY?

YEAH. IT WAS SCARY BEFORE SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP, BUT I'M OKAY NOW.

DID YOU SEE I HAVE A CAT?

HIS NAME IS--

SLEEPER.

SLEEPER?*

*SLEEPER?! GO READ VENOM #19 TO FIND OUT MORE! --EDITOR

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HELLO, EDDIE. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

SLEEPER, WOW. THANK YOU FOR--

EDDIE...

IT'S TIME. WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE IN THE MACHINE TO REMOVE THEIR CODEX WHILE WE HAVE A CHANCE.

I'M NOT GOING IN.

RIGHT. BIG TARGETS FIRST, YEAH?

YOU AND CAP, THING AND WOLVERINE, YOU GUYS GO IN AND I'LL HOLD THE--

WHAT?

NOT UNTIL EVERYONE ELSE IS OUT.

I STARTED THIS, EDDIE. I BROUGHT THE FIRST SYMBIOTE HERE TO EARTH. IF I HADN'T... WE WOULDN'T BE IN ***THIS MESS.***

THIS IS ***MY*** RESPONSIBILITY. I'M BIG ON THAT SORT OF THING...

TELL HIM OUR KIND HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE DARK AGES, EDDIE. SINCE THE TIME OF BEOWULF AND GRENDEL. TELL HIM HE DOESN'T HAVE TO CARRY THIS BURDEN ANY--

YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU GO IN LAST.

EDDIE...

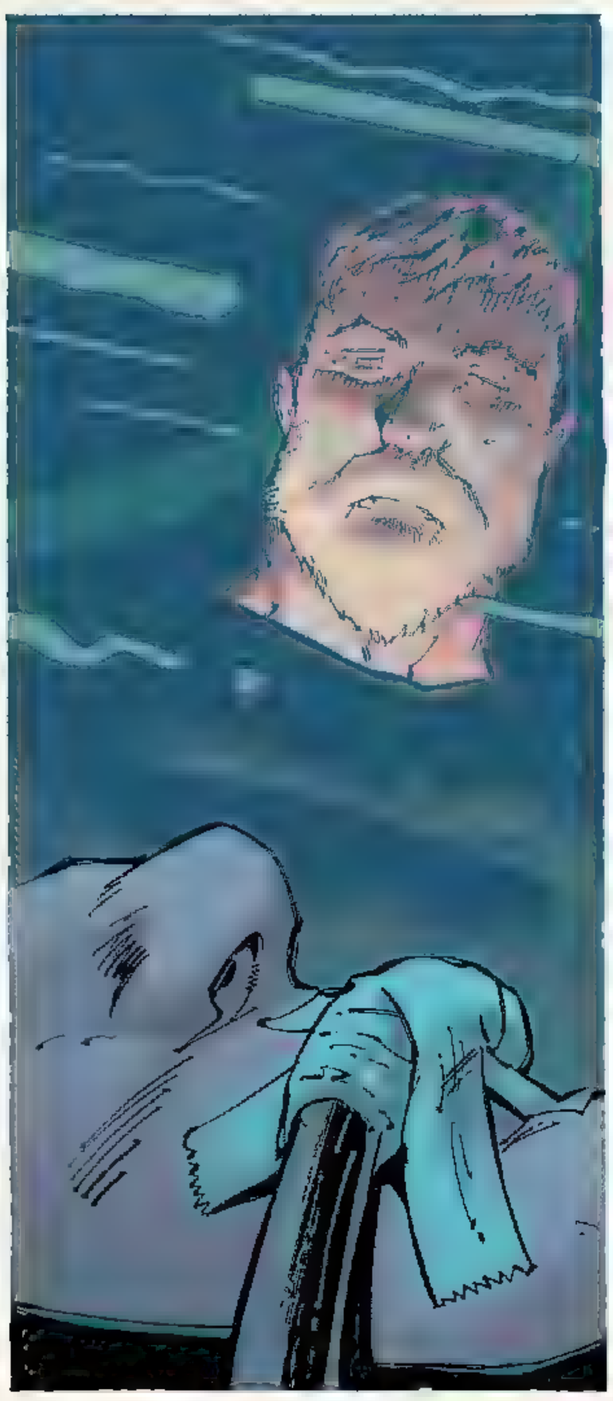
WHAT? I NEED THE BACKUP.

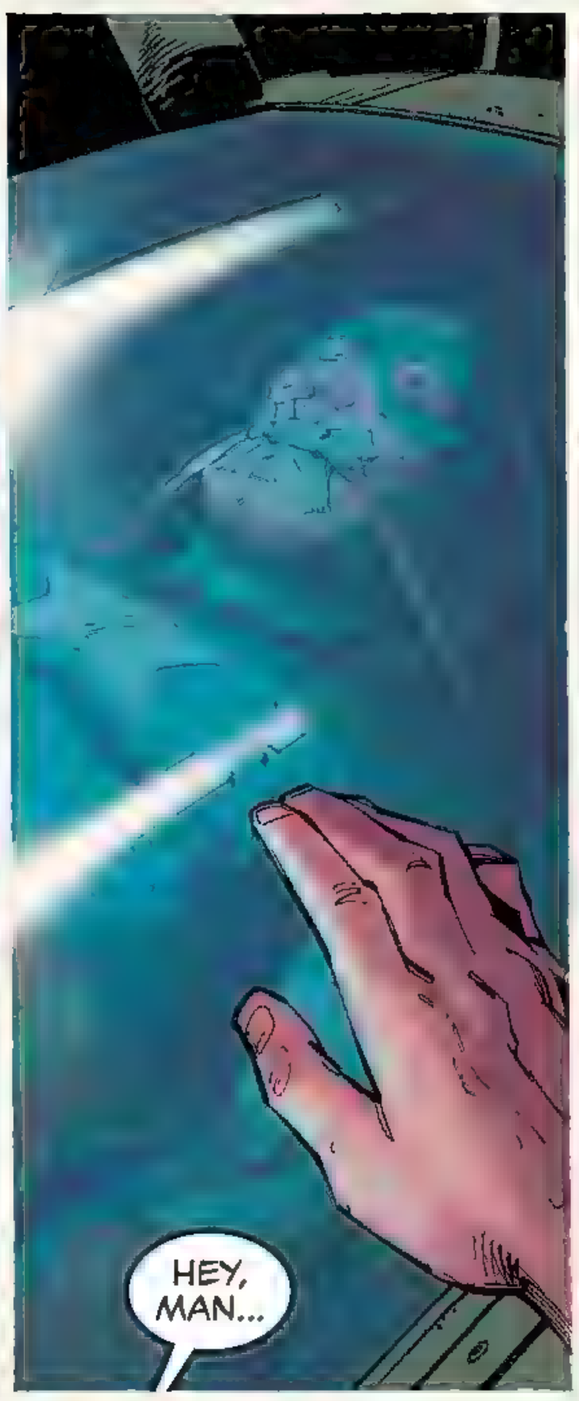
OKAY! WHO'S FIRST?

CLAP

HOURS LATER...

KRAK





YOU NERVOUS?

ABOUT WHAT?

DON'T DO THAT. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FACE HIM. THIS NEW...DARK CARNAGE. EITHER WAY. EVEN IF IT WORKS.

EVEN IF WE WIN THE RACE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT HIM.

WE'LL BE OKAY.

SKRTCH SKRTCH

YOU GONNA TELL DYLAN BEFORE WE DO? BEFORE WE GO TO WAR?

TELL HIM *WHAT?*

THAT... YOU'RE HIS FATHER...

SKRTCH SKRTCH

...

OH.

SKRTCH SKRTCH

EDDIE, ARE YOU--

PETER...

SKRTCH SK

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...GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HIM!

HEHE... YES...

GET AWAY FROM HIM...

..."PETER."

DID YOU KNOW THAT MY MOTHER WENT THROUGH ELECTROSHOCK TREATMENTS WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME?

THIS WAS BEFORE THEY WOULD SEDATE YOU FOR THAT KIND OF THING...

AND THEN, YOU KNOW...I DIED MINUTES AFTER I WAS BORN...WENT TO HELL...CAME BACK... THAT'S A WHOLE THING...

BRUCE, CAN HE BREAK THOSE CONTAINMENT PODS?

I...I DON'T THINK SO.

LET'S NOT FIND OUT.

I'VE HAD THERAPISTS TRY TO TELL ME THAT THESE "EARLY TRAUMAS" LED TO ME BEING...THE WAY I AM.

I'VE HEARD IT ALL, YOU KNOW...

I'M THIS WAY BECAUSE OF ABUSE, BECAUSE OF VIDEO GAMES, OR SEX AND VIOLENCE ON TV, BECAUSE OF GUNS AND KNIVES AND THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS MEAN OLD WORLD.

BUT WHAT NONE OF THEM GET...

KRK

KRK

KRK

...IS THOSE THINGS DIDN'T MAKE ME WHAT I AM.

I AM ABUSE.

I AM MADE...OF THEM.

I AM SEX AND VIOLENCE.

I AM THE GUNS AND THE KNIVES AND THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS WHOLE SICK @#$%.#&% WORLD...

RAM
YOU KNOW MY NAME.
NOW SCREAM IT.

PETE... DYLAN IS IN--
I KNOW. GO.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--
NO!
NO MORE RUNNING. WE FINISH THIS!
NGG... NO...DAMMIT... NOT NOW...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DADDY?
LITTLE... PERFORMANCE ANXIETY?
DON'T DO THIS! I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY CHILD!
AND SO DO I...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHERE ARE YOU--
I TOLD YOU, EDDIE.
IF YOU AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO END THIS...

STAN'S SOAPBOX · MAY 1969

STAN'S SOAPBOX

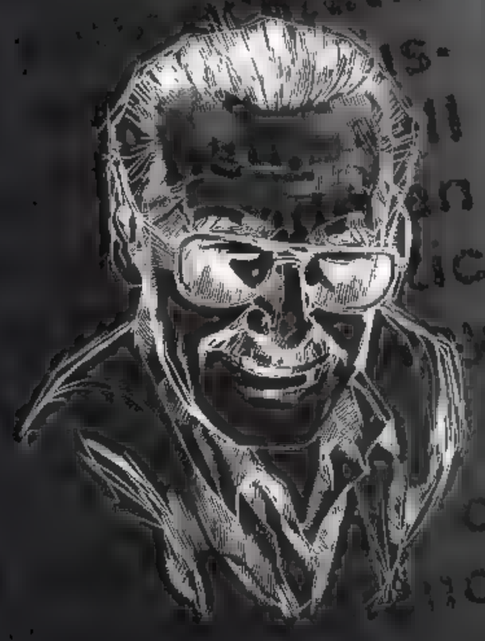
For many years we've been trying, in our own bumbling way, to illustrate that love is a far greater force, a far greater power than hate. Now we don't mean you're expected to go around like a pirouetting Pollyanna, tossing posies at everyone who passes by, but we do want to make a point. Let's consider three men: Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of peace, whose thoughts and deeds have influenced countless millions throughout the ages — and whose presence still is felt in every corner of the earth. Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of good will, men of tolerance, and especially men of love. Now, consider the practitioners of hate who have sullied the pages of history. Who still venerates their words? Where is homage still paid to their memory? What banners still are raised to their cause? The power of love — and the power of hate. Which is most truly enduring? When you tend to despair . . . let the answer sustain you.

Excelsior!

Smiley

GRAINGER, North Carolina . . . our pal SAL BUSCEMA, Virginia; while Jaunty J. STERANKO and Joltin' J. CRAIG both have their pads in Pennsylvania . . . Torrid TOM SUTTON, Massachusetts . . . JIM (Madman) MOONEY, Connecticut . . . and Valiant VINCE COLLETTA, Jumpin' JOHNNY SEVERIN, and Genial GENE COLAN, all nesting in New Jersey! The rest of us share the same high taxes and traffic jams in New York and Long Island — darn it! (And we never DID find out where Honest Irv holes up!)

Now, before cutting out, we've just gotta tell you about Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. A few days ago he announced that he, stunned the children were finally



STAN LEE
FOREVER

...I WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO IS.

WHA-- NO! NO!

BANNER!

OH...OH GOD...

NO, NOT GOD...

AGH!

SHNK

...NOT YET!

WELL... THAT WAS A BIT...ANTI-CLIMACTIC...

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS NERD IS SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT--

WHAT WAS...I FELT THAT!

WHO ARE YOU?!

I AM--

HEHE,

NO...

WE!
ARE!
HULK!

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

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VENOM IS THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS!!!

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome to another thrilling and chilling installment of Cletus' Clubhouse as ABSOLUTE CARNAGE continues to engulf the Marvel Universe!

And AT LAST! The explosive debut issue of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is on sale—and you readers out there in Mighty Marveldom have let us know how you feel about it with ENTHUSIASM! As soon as the first issue dropped, our inbox started filling up, so let's not waste a minute and get right to it!

Dear Venom Team,

I just finished reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and it was amazing! I saw Cletus' Clubhouse and thought, *Hmmmmmm, I should send a letter in.*

So, hi. Good job. One hundred percent amazing, and I love it so darn much.

Kaedell I.

P.S.: I'm framing mine, cuz it's beautiful.

Thank YOU for reading and for writing in, Kaedell. As dangerous and demented as Carnage may be, we love him too!

VENOM crew,

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is gearing up to be one great creepfest. It feels like danger is right around the corner at any given time. And how creepy was that scene in the subway where he just popped out of nowhere? It just gave me a cold shiver. Am I the only one who can't stop looking at skeletal Carnage? I feel like Cletus lost some weight. I'm also interested in seeing what you're gonna do with Red Goblin. That's gonna be fun. Loving it so far, y'all. Keep it coming. You got this!

(And hey, Drawn to Comics family!)

Billy G.
Glendale, AZ

Dear VENOM office,

When I began reading comics in the 90s, Carnage played a major role in forming my love for Spider-Man and the Marvel brand as a whole.

As I got older, I drifted away from comics but still remained a fan of the genre. Now in my mid-thirties, I just recently picked up a copy of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE as my reintroduction into comic books.

Oh...my...god!

I was in love with the book from page 1. It is gorgeously written and illustrated. ABSOLUTE-ly beautiful!

I now feel the need and desire to read anything and everything related to this Venom. Hopefully that will hold me over till the next issue because waiting for it is going to be agonizing.

Awesome job, guys! I can't sing your praises enough.

J. Doyle

Thanks so much for reading, J.! It's one of my personal favorite things to hear from readers who have found their way back to comics!

Like you, I grew up reading Spider-Man comics in the '90s, and it was a real treat to bring some of my favorite characters to the fore as a part of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE [insert obligatory plug for ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM by Cullen Bunn and Gerardo Sandoval here!].

In fact, talking recalling our favorite past symbiotic supporting characters and devising ways to fold them into the story of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has been one of the most exciting parts of building the story for everyone involved. Hoping we brought back some of your favorites too!

Here's a letter from Venomaniac Travis, who knows his Venom history maybe even better than I do!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Crew,

I gave my comic shop the checklist to get all parts of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE. They missed the original release of WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, but I got it the same time ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM were released.

After a long workweek, I sat down and read all three book back-to-back. What...a...RIDE!

First, FUNERAL PYRE was hot, hot, hot. It was great to see what Andi was up to. Is everyone in her family super nice? Her dad, her aunt... Don't get me wrong; I loved it. Very different from the standard broken home most tortured heroes have. The return of the monsters from the D.O.A. was also great, even if it was short-lived. Can they return? They are demons, after all. Andi's battle look with the armor, goat legs and wrench (because her dad and her used a wrench fighting Jack O'Lantern during Bunn's run in VENOM issue #38 and #39) is battle-utiful. I love all the deep cuts your team is doing.

Second, SEPARATION ANXIETY is a perfect horror comic book. The return of the symbi-puppy from the end of DEADPOOL VS. CARNAGE and its attempt at family life was scary and sad at the same time. Plus, thanking Knull during saying grace at dinner was perfect. Any chance Sadie and her family can survive this National Lampoon's Grisly Family Trip?

Finally, SCREAM was my FAVORITE of the three. The return of Patricia Robertson was... I don't have the words to describe how great that was. Her battle with a corpse carrying Scream, then becoming the host, then Andi showing up. Also Patricia's jealousy toward Andi for having bonded with the clone symbiote she had back in Way's run. Again with the deep cuts, nice. Not to mention the art of Gerardo Sandoval with Cullen Bunn's writing—as great a team-up as the Ryan Stegman and Donny Cates duo.

Now the classic question section:

Okay, Travis—lay 'em on me! Ready...? GO!

Where's the Jury? If they do show up, would Carnage's experience with Michael Hall's armored team be a problem?

For now, the Jury's been disbanded, with little known about the current whereabouts or exploits of most of their membership.

Though, as we saw in the first arc of Donny and Ryan's run, Rex's warehouse was chock-full of at least SOME of the ordnance and tech the Jury used in their war against Venom and its offspring.

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I wonder if Eddie'll be able to put any of that to use, considering the events of this epic issue...

Is there a planned reference or appearance of Chthon?

THERE IS! Great continuity know-how, Travis. In WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, when Carnage says, "You ain't the only one who's cursed" to Andi, that's a direct reference to the Gerry Conway-penned and Mike Perkins-illustrated CARNAGE series, which culminated with Carnage using the *Darkhold* to imbue himself with dark magic and a resistance to fire and sonics unique among the symbiotes.

Are there codices in the people and heroes who were infected with the Venom virus in the NEW AVENGERS and MIGHTY AVENGERS runs?

No! The Venom Bomb, as we've been calling it at VENOM HQ, was a semisynthetic weapon biochemically engineered by Doctor Doom. WHATEVER symbiote material he used to craft his device, it was so augmented and altered by experimentation that the very core of its genetics were changed, bearing no resemblance to those of Venom.

Any Poisoned symbiotes showing up that survived the VENOMIZED event?

I mean, TECHNICALLY Carnage himself was Poisoned! So, yes!

Beyond that, I can't say too much—you'll just have to keep reading!

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE crew,

First off, I'd just like to say how great this entire thing has been.

One issue into the main series and you've already cemented this as my new favorite Venom story! As a kid, the first cartoon I ever watched was Spider-Man: The Animated Series, the Venom Saga, and ever since, I have loved everything Carnage. I've made it my goal to collect every comic featuring the 616 Cletus and his symbiote.

Needless to say, I know Carnage pretty well. I've never really been scared of him. That is, until now. After I read CARNAGE BORN, VENOM UNLEASHED and CULT OF CARNAGE, I had the first nightmare I've had in two years. I just dreamt about being hunted by Carnage and having my spine ripped out.

Keep up the amazing work, guys!

Hey, [unsigned]! Man, I LOVED that arc of the Spider-Man animated series when I was a kid. That show, the PlayStation Spider-Man game and, of course, the comics of the time still form the bedrock of how I understand Spider-Man, Venom and the whole Marvel Universe.

BUT! Included among those oh-so-formative comics was ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN, and if you haven't read the Carnage saga from ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN by Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley, I would URGE you to go find it! Heck, go find and read ALL of ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN!

Not only does it contain one of the best and creepiest Carnage stories ever told, it's one of the best Spider-Man stories ever!

Plus, you never know where those characters'll pop up next...

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE Team,

As a big symbiote fan, I have been really looking forward to ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, and I'm happy to see some of my favorite symbiotes returning, like Scream. It's also great seeing Carnage being treated as a big threat, even if some of it is thanks to Knull.

One Question:

Spider-Gwen currently has a symbiote, but she doesn't appear to be targeted. Is it because she and her symbiote are from a different Earth?

Keep up the great work; the first issue was amazing!

Luis

Thanks so much for your letter, Luis, and before answering your question about Gwen, I just want to note one thing:

Carnage isn't being treated like a big threat because of Knull's presence in the story or the MU.

He's being treated like a big threat because he's CARNAGE!

The most bloodthirsty and reprehensible serial killer in the history of the MU—and that was BEFORE he got his symbiote!

He's communing with Knull, yes, and Knull is a force Eddie, Venom and the Marvel Universe will have to reckon with eventually (if they survive ABSOLUTE CARNAGE, that is), but make no mistake: This summer, CARNAGE rules.

As for Gwen, Ghost-Spider is already such an integral part of the Spider-Family that we discussed the possibility of bringing her into the story—especially since, as you say, she's wearing what appears to be her universe's version of a symbiote.

But like Doom's Venom Bomb, Gwen's suit is synthetic and therefore interacts with her physiology differently than a Klyntar. While we're not exactly sure what that means yet (you should check out GHOST-SPIDER if you want some clues!), we figured it ruled her out of being one of Carnage's targets.

For now.

Hey, True Believers,

I just got done reading ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 and a few of the tie-ins. And let me say, HOLY CRAP.

Over the past few months, I've been in quite a depression and have turned to comic books to pull me out of this rut. My first comic was Cates, beginning with VENOM, which bled into ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

Everything is perfect.

I can hardly make it home before I'm ready to crack open the book to discover the mystery that is about to unfold before my eyes. ABSOLUTE CARNAGE is the symbiote story I never knew I needed. Out of the hundreds of symbiote stories in the Marvel-verse, for a new fresh Carnage story to unfold in such mystery, excitement and NEWNESS (is that a word?) is mind-blowing. I can't wait to see where this road ends but don't want it to ever end... Thank you, everyone, for creating such a fresh story in the world of the craziest psychopath serial killer Carnage.

Y'all are awesome,
Kyle S.

No, Kyle—Y'ALL are awesome! Thanks for reading and for the kind words.

Dear ABSOLUTE CARNAGE team,

I've been collecting comics for about five years now, ever since my dad passed down his old collection to me.

I read the VENOM series last year and it was awesome, and I can't wait to see how this new storyline's going to end. Can't wait for issue #2!

Alex

Thanks for reading, Alex! It's always great to hear from readers who share their comics hobby with their family. Here's to many more years of Venom comics you and your dad can share!

That's all the space we've got for this one, folks! Remember to head to your comic shop next week—and EVERY week this summer—and tell them you want the best, and the best is CARNAGE!

#CarnageRules
Devin
@edevinlewis

RAVENCROFT
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

Instructions: *This form is to be completed, signed, and dated for all clients who are being referred for psychiatric services.*

Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A ☐ CIS

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE Date/Time of Referral 1/2

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Assessment Began 2/23 (Date MM/DD) and 4 00 a.m. p.m. (Time 00:00) Ended 2/23 (Date MM/DD) and 4:13 a.m. p.m. (Time 00:00)

Name of Client FRANCES LOUISE BARRISON ☐ Male ☒ Female

N/A (Street Address) ____ (City) ____ (Zip) (___) ____ (PHONE)

Date of Birth 05 12 93 (m m d d y y) Patient No SMU 01 0001

Employed ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown Occupation ____ Veteran Yes ☐ No ☒ Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other ____ Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Recent Stressors: ☐ Relationship ☒ Family ☐ Job ☒ Housing ☒ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other ____

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) GUNSHOT WOUND TO HEAD CAUSED MENTAL INSTABILITY

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

If yes, what substances: MULTIPLE NARCOTICS

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) MENTAL ABUSE BY MOTHER

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe) ____

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION
PATIENT NAME: FRANCES LOUISE BARRISON
TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

POURNELLA: The time is approximately 4:00 P.M. Dr. Davinia Marcia Pournella initiating intake interview. Today's subject is none other than Frances Louise Barrison. Hello, Miss Barrison.

BARRISON: You got pretty eyes, Doc. Anyone ever tell you that? Your eyelashes… They're so...so long.

POURNELLA: Thank you, Miss Barrison. Tell me… How are we feeling today?

BARRISON: Cold.

POURNELLA: Cold? Is the temperature in here too low for you? I can speak with—

BARRISON: No. Not the room. Something underneath my skin. I keep trying and trying to tell the orderlies here that I need my jacket, but they just won't listen…

POURNELLA: Jacket? What jacket?

BARRISON: The jacket I came in here with.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, I…I don't remember there being anything in your file about a jacket. Personal belongings are usually stored for safekeeping until patients are—

BARRISON: Dead?

POURNELLA: Deemed healthy enough for release.

BARRISON: Come on, Doc… You and I know that ain't happening. So how about you just do me a solid and give me back my jacket, eh? I worked hard on that thing. It's my pride and joy, you hear?

POURNELLA: Tell me about this…this jacket of yours.

BARRISON: What do you wanna know?

POURNELLA: Well, what makes it so special?

BARRISON: It's warm, for one thing. @&%$ing black leather. All shiny. Studs running up the sleeves. Down the back. You know how much heart and soul went into that jacket?

POURNELLA: Tell me. How much?

BARRISON: So much. Like…there was this one guy. Met him at a club in the East Village, I think? They all blur together by now. Anyway. This guy. He comes up to me in the pit, getting all handsy. You ever been in a pit before, Doc?

POURNELLA: Pit?

BARRISON: Geez, Doc… Don't be such an L7! There are rules when you're in the pit. No knuckles and elbows. But this guy, he… Well, he's nothing but knuckles and elbows. Son of a $%\@ had earrings running up and down his lobe. So shiny. This guy, see, he's distracting me. When all I wanted to do was dance. I wanted to shout in that ear of his to mind his own business, so I pulled out my knife and…I guess you could say he was all ears to me after that. Made for a great patch on my jacket.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry… When you say "patch," do you mean—

BARRISON: Punks pride themselves on their jackets. They take time. Your leather has to embody your bands. Your very soul. This is a way of life, you know? A jacket is like, it's like your second skin.

POURNELLA: …Skin.

BARRISON: Folks make patches for their favorite bands and safety-pin them to their jacket. Me, I realized I wanted my jacket to be all about the people in my life.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, but are you saying you put them on your jacket?

BARRISON: It kept me warm. Kept me alive. I swear, that jacket was just about the only thing keeping me alive sometimes. People saw me walking down the street, wearing that thing—and you know what? None of them would @$%& with me. So…Doc. Please? You guys gotta have it around here somewhere. Don't you? It gets so cold in here. I feel naked without it. So…exposed.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, but I don't think—

BARRISON: I WANT MY SKIN BACK, DOC. GIVE ME MY SKIN.

POURNELLA: Guards! Guards!

BARRISON: I WANT THOSE EYELASHES! I GOT SOME SPACE ON THE SLEEVES OF MY JACKET! GIVE ME YOUR EYELASHES! GIMME GIMME GIMME—

END OF INTERVIEW

THE FIRST WAVE OF ABSOLUTE CARNAGE IS COMPLETE—WHAT A RIDE SO FAR! DID YOU SEE ANY OF THAT COMING? I SURE DIDN'T! IN ANTICIPATION OF CARNAGE'S RACE TO COLLECT AS MANY CODICES AS HE CAN, WE DECIDED TO DO A SPECIAL COVER PROGRAM CALLED...

...CODEX VARIANTS!

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1

VENOM (EDDIE BROCK)
BY ADI GRANOV

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1

SCREAM (DONNA DIEGO)
BY MICHAEL & LAURA ALLRED

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1

HYBRID (DEADPOOL)
BY DAVE JOHNSON

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1

SHE-VENOM (ANNE WEYING)
BY CLAYTON CRAIN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2

SPIDER-MAN (PETER PARKER)
BY MARCOS MARTIN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1

SCORN (TANIS NIEVES)
BY YASMINE PUTRI

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1

BLACK CAT (FELICIA HARDY)
BY EMA LUPACCHINO & DAVID CURIEL

VENOM #17

TOXIN (EDDIE BROCK)
BY DAVE JOHNSON

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2

MANIA (ANDI BENTON)
BY DECLAN SHALVEY

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1

BLACK COSTUME (TOURIST LEONARD ELKHART)
BY GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2

CARNAGE (CLETUS KASADY)
BY MARK BAGLEY, ANDREW HENNESSY & JASON KEITH

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1

CIRCLE OF FOUR (THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS)
BY JAMES STOKOE

VENOM #18

HYBRID (SCOTT WASHINGTON)
BY PATCH ZIRCHER & BRIAN REBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3

RED GOBLIN (NORMAN OSBORN)
BY GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2

LIFE FOUNDATION SYMBIOTES (RIOT, TREVOR COLE; LASHER, RAMÓN HERNÁNDEZ; AGONY, LESLIE GESNERIA; PHAGE, CARL MACH) BY MICO SUAYAN & BRIAN REBER

...AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING! WE'LL BE BACK NEXT MONTH TO UPDATE YOU ON THE NEXT WAVE OF CODEX VARIANTS, BUT WHY DON'T YOU LET US KNOW WHO YOU'D LIKE TO SEE! MAYBE WE'LL PREVIEW SOME OF THE NEW COVERS IN THE COMING WEEKS BEFORE THEY HIT STANDS! BE SURE TO HIT US UP AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT," AND YOU MIGHT JUST SEE YOUR LETTER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** OR **VENOM**!

BE SEEING YOU, VENOMANIACS!

—DK

NEXT:

#4